

#### § 842.77

final Air Force action. Amendments will be submitted in writing and signed by the claimant or the claimant's duly authorized agent.

#### § 842.77 Statute of limitations.

(a) A claim must be presented in writing within 2 years after it accrues. It accrues at the time the claimant discovers, or in the exercise of reasonable care should have discovered, the existence of the act causing property damage, personal injury or death for which the claim is filed.

(b) In computing time to determine whether the period of limitation has expired, exclude the incident date and include the date the claim was filed.

#### § 842.78 Claims payable.

When all of the following are present, payment of a claim in the amount of \$1,000 or less is authorized if it:

(a) Is for property damage, personal injury, or death. (Payment for a personal injury or death claim is limited to costs of reasonable medical, hospital, and burial expenses actually incurred and not otherwise furnished or paid by the United States.)

(b) Was caused by a military member or civilian employee of the Air Force, whether acting within or outside the scope of employment.

(c) Arose from the use of a government vehicle at any place or other government property on a government installation, and

(d) Is not payable under any other provision of law except Article 139, UCMJ.

#### § 842.79 Claims not payable.

A claim is not payable if it is:

(a) Payable under any other provision of the law.

(b) Caused wholly or partly by a negligent or wrongful act of the claimant, the claimant's agent, or employee.

(c) A subrogated claim.

(d) Recoverable from other sources such as an insurance policy, or recovered from action under Article 139, UCMJ.

#### § 842.80 Reconsideration of final denial.

(a) The statute does not provide for appeals. The original settlement au-

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thority may, however, reconsider any decision. There is no set format for a reconsideration but it should be submitted in writing within 60 days of the original decision.

(b) The settlement authority may either grant all or any portion of the requested relief without referral to any other office, or forward the entire file with the reasons for the action and recommendations to the next higher claims settlement authority for independent review and final action.

#### § 842.81 Settlement agreement.

Do not pay a claim unless the claimant accepts the amount offered in full satisfaction of the claim and signs a settlement agreement to that effect.

#### Subpart J—Admiralty Claims (10 U.S.C. 9801-9804, 9806; 46 U.S.C. 740)

#### § 842.82 Scope of this subpart.

It sets forth the procedure for administrative settlement of admiralty and maritime claims in favor of and against the United States.

#### § 842.83 Definitions.

(a) *Admiralty contracts.* A contract covering maritime services or a maritime transaction such as vessel procurement and space for commercial ocean transportation of DOD cargo, mail, and personnel is an admiralty contract.

(b) *General average.* General average is the admiralty rule that when someone's property is thrown overboard to save a ship, the ship owner and all owners of the cargo must share the loss.

(c) *Maritime torts.* A maritime tort is one committed in navigable waters or on land or in the air where a substantial element of the damage, personal injury, or death occurred in navigable waters. The activity causing the tortious act must bear some significant relationship to traditional maritime activity.

(d) *Vessel.* Every description of watercraft used or usable as a means of transportation on water is a vessel. (1 U.S.C. 3)